

THE

# Grey Wolf

HOWL



VOLUME I, ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 15, 2007



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# Commander's Column

By Col. David W. Sutherland  
3BCT, 1CD Commander



Grey Wolf!

We are at the four-month mark of our deployment. I cannot express how proud I am of the performance of each and every Soldier assigned to the Grey-wolf Brigade. Throughout this first four months, our Soldiers have conducted over 3,000 patrols and numerous combat operations with our Iraqi Security Force counterparts to bring peace and prosperity to the citizens of Diyala. Your determination to see this mission accomplished is nothing short of outstanding. You have constantly shown our host nation and the ISF how a professional Army performs its duty. Through your perseverance and sacrifice, the people of Diyala will have a chance for

a better future for them and their children.

As we recognize our achievements, we must also recognize our setbacks. One such setback was an escalation of force incident that took place during a flash tactical check-point. This EOF incident resulted in two local citizens killed and three others injured.

While currently under investigation, this incident will affect our relationship with the local community. It is critical our Soldiers remain safe during these types of operations. However, it is equally critical our Soldiers follow the procedures emplaced as they react to these types of incidents. I have directed all commanders to conduct refresher training on EOF to ensure all proper measures are taken prior to taking lethal actions. Our Soldiers are our greatest asset and will always have the ability to protect themselves when threatened.

As we continue with this high OPTEMPO, the safety of our Soldiers is increasingly at risk. We need to recognize

that with time, our Soldiers will become complacent. I ask all commanders and NCOs to look at how we conduct operations to ensure procedures and tools are in place to keep our Soldiers safe. This is an NCO-run Brigade, and I expect all NCOs to remain watchful of their Soldier's actions and mitigate any risks that can affect our combat power.

I would like to conclude this message by calling to mind the gratitude we owe all of our Soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to make this a better place for the Iraqis—you will never be forgotten. To their families, may God help you get through this most difficult time. The Grey-wolf Brigade will be here to support you and you will forever remain a member of our family.

God bless you all.

**Grey Wolf 6**

## 'Hooah' Corner

By Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt  
3BCT, 1CD CSM



Hooah, Grey Wolf!!!

Did I ever tell you the story about... Oh, I did? Well too bad because I'm going to tell it again!

This story is about discipline, initiative and duty.

A couple of years ago -- okay 22 years ago -- a young specialist went to the Soldier of the Month board. After winning the battalion-level competition, he proceeded to the brigade-level competition. After winning that, he went on to the division-level competition. After winning that, a number of leaders within the unit congratulated him and said, "Good initiative..."

This comment, in particular, confused the young specialist. The congratulations were understood but the initiative part was something he didn't expect. What is initiative? Why is everyone commenting on doing something that seems so natural? The Army is offering the opportunity to compete, to be rewarded, to be recognized and I took it. Why is that "taking initiative?" Isn't it a natural thing to do, to learn and grow within the profession that one has chosen?

A year or so later, after studying the history of the American Army, this young trooper reads about the after action review studies of Soldiers shooting, moving and communicating in a combat environment. The book talks

about the rarity of the self-starting individual who will shoot, move and communicate under fire without being told. The book goes on further to say that these 15 percenters need to be identified, promoted and given the responsibility to lead the 70 percent who won't do it themselves -- they need an example. (The other 15 percent won't even do it when led.)

The concept of lead by example, self starter, and initiative, all fall into place. "Spc. Smedlap" now sees why the term initiative is so important. The 15 percenters are the ones who the Army doesn't have to say, "Don't just stand there, do something," because they're already doing it. They are part of the solution, not part of the problem. He also realized that by taking the initiative to compete, spend his time and energy studying, training and improving himself, he has demonstrated initiative.

The Army defines discipline as the prompt obedience to orders, or the initiation of the appropriate action in the absence of orders. Duty is defined as fulfilling your obligations. Its definition is further enhanced in Field Manual 22-100, Army Leadership, by the quotation of former Army Chief of Staff, Gen. John A. Wickham, who said, "The essence of duty is acting in the absence of orders or direction from others, based on an inner sense of what is morally and professionally right..." These definitions combine to help explain the concept of initiative.

You see, when you break it down, a disciplined Soldier takes initiative because he initiates the appropriate action when no other

direction is given, or when the instructions given do not pertain to the situation one presently finds oneself in. His sense of duty tells him that he is supposed to act in the absence of orders. Duty requires us to give 110 percent, and then some.

I have been given the excuse, "I was just doing what I was told," or even better, "That's not my job." Boy, do these comments chap my fourth point of contact. I responded to the first by telling the NCO that Uncle Sam pays them for more than that. We pay the American Soldier to think, to analyze, and to act. That's why our orders process gives task and purpose, and commander's intent.

As far as the "that's not my job comment," I heard myself promising, "Well, I'll make it your job." The point is it's everyone's job to complete the mission and improve the organization. You can't improve it much if you just do the minimum.

This subject is pertinent to our situation in that many Soldiers have gotten into a routine. We have developed a personnel battle rhythm. We sometimes feel that our schedule is sacred. We need to remember that it's not about our convenience; it's not about our comfort. It's about service -- service to our Nation while we are at war. It's not easy, but if it were, then everybody could do it. They can't, you can. I applaud you for it. You voluntarily serve your Nation at war.

It's why I'm here -- your awesome to be around.

**Live the legend,  
Grey Wolf 9**



# 'Grey Wolf Leadership Academy' to Open Soon

By Pfc. Ben Fox  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers worked for days on end, filling sandbags, constructing fighting positions, placing concertina wire and setting up camouflaged netting.

Oddly, the position being fortified is not expected to come under attack. Instead, the building is going to be used as a leadership academy for Iraqi security forces.

The "Grey Wolf Leadership Academy" is located at Forward Operating Base Gabe and is scheduled to begin classes for coalition force Soldiers, Iraqi Army Soldiers and Iraqi Police, Feb. 11. The course will last seven days with a graduation ceremony on the eighth day.

"It is going to entail focus on leadership development," said Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division command sergeant major, who is in charge of creating the academy.

The course will involve classes on all seven days, including NCO responsibilities and duties, and leadership principals on the first day.

The purpose of the classes is "to facilitate professional develop-

ment of the IA and IP NCO Corps," said Felt.

On the second day, the students will learn Army values and general orders.

So that the ISF can be better trusted by those they serve, Felt said the instructors will teach values and ethics the United States Army is known for.

The third day turns more hands on as the students learn weapons familiarization, marksmanship and reflexive fire.

Staff Sgt. James Evans, native to Tuscan, Ariz., will primarily be in charge of conducting the firing ranges at the academy, which he was previously doing for U.S. Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

The marksmanship range will consist of firing ten rounds in three positions -- standing, kneeling and prone -- so that in all, 30 shots are fired, said Evans.

The students will return to the ranges again on day four for buddy team and squad live fire exercises.

The buddy team fire will have four different cover and concealment elements, two running lanes, and the final element will fit the entire team so they can all engage the target together, said Evans.

Day five involves more complicated leadership responsibilities such as rules of engagement, fire commands and reporting.

On day six, medical training will be the focus, as well as an obstacle course aimed to improve battle focused physical training.

The obstacle course includes logs to jump over, tires to run through, wire to crawl under and a balance beam to cross.

The last day of training emphasizes defense and how to maintain and create defensive positions.

"(This will) teach them how to sustain their fire and stay in the fight," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Young, native to Lockhart, Texas. Young is in charge of teaching defense and holding defensive positions.

All of the courses are similar to courses American Soldiers go through, but the visual aids have been translated into Arabic so the students can see visually what they hear from the Soldiers through interpreters, said Young.

"The ultimate goal is to train Iraqis so they can defend," said Evans. "Teach them to hold in place and defend."

This is all ties into the main

mission of coalition forces in Iraq, which is to hand over security to the Iraqis.

"Our exit strategy depends on Iraqi security forces being able to provide security," said Felt. "Anything we do to build ISF capabilities is important."

Young also said he hopes the academy will "help (ISF) defeat their enemies without us." "If they become more self-sustainable and less reliable on us, it has to help," said Young.

To prove the academy's worth, graduation day will be different than most. The students will show what they learned from the previous week when their academy comes under a mock attack.

"Our graduation exercise is a live fire defense of the academy itself," said Felt. The Iraqi leadership will see their Soldiers conducting a complicated defense of the academy, he said.

Hopefully it will provoke a reaction, and the VIPs will ask, "How did they train them to do this in seven days?" said Felt.



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. James Evans, pulls barbed wire around a poll to create a low crawl obstacle for an obstacle course at the Grey Wolf Leadership Academy on Forward Operating Base Gabe Jan. 26.

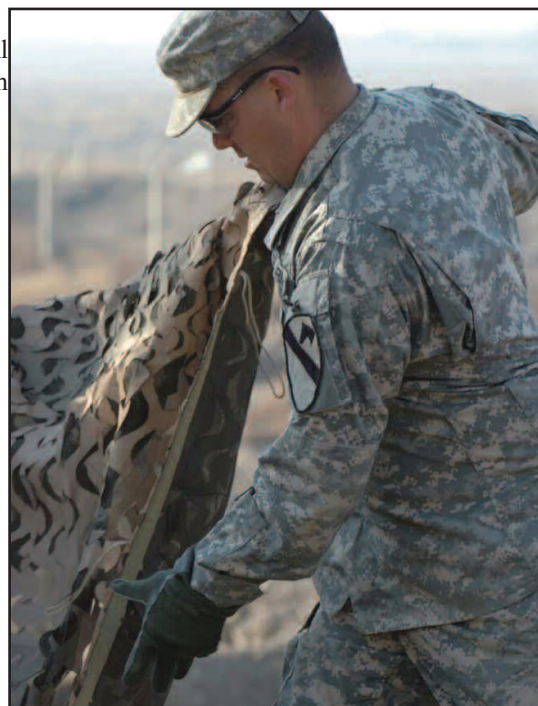


Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Spc. Rodney Macomber sets up camouflaged netting for a fighting position at the Grey Wolf Leadership Academy.

# Soldiers Show their 'Wild Side' During Fashion Show

By Spc. Ryan Stroud  
3rd Brigade Combat Team

Saturday nights used to be the night for many Soldiers to get dressed up and head out for a night on the town. Since the Soldiers of the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, those nights are temporarily over for the Soldiers – or so they thought.

Soldiers from the 215th Brigade Support Battalion put together a night of "wild" fashion to entertain the rest of the units stationed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Jan. 20.

Members of Grey Wolf piled into Faulkenburg Theater for a night of laughs as Soldiers "strutted their stuff" and competed in different fashion categories.

"We had a fashion show to have some fun and boost morale," said Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Owens, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 215th BSB,

"The show was to give the Soldiers something different to do after work and to raise morale," added Sgt. Jacob Taylor, HHC, 215th BSB, and a native of Silver Spring, Md.

"Some of the categories the Soldiers competed in were most outrageous uniform, worst standards, and most athletic," said Owens, a Worcester, Mass. native.

The Soldiers participating in the show grouped together many different forms of their uniform to create many outlandish costumes and accessories, Owens said.

Soldiers mixed their physical training uniforms with their Army Combat Uniforms and cre-

ated different ensembles to entertain the crowd of people. Many of the performers also put on small skits to add to the show, while others danced to keep the crowds attention.

"The whole event was crazy!" said Spc. Kisha Mathurin, HHC, 215th BSB, and a native of Long Island, N.Y. "[The event] was a way to show that even though we are in Iraq, we can still have some fun."

"It was a good change of pace," said Sgt. Glenn Roberts, HHC, 215th BSB, and a native of Chicago. "It showed some outrageous ways Soldiers could express themselves with their uniforms and outfits, and to just have fun with it."

Owens, who performed a skit that was inspired from her time as a drill sergeant, was impressed by the how well received the show was.

"I liked the fact that the show was given to the Soldiers to run," she said. "I, as a [non-commissioned officer], didn't have anything to do to with the planning or the organization of the show. The Soldiers did everything and did a great job with the entire event."

"I do hope many more events like this happen," Owens added. "It really is good for boosting morale."

As the show came to a close, it was determined that the HHC, 215th Soldiers were the winners of the contest. For the Soldiers, it was a fun and proud moment.

"We worked hard and had a good time with this," said Mathurin. "I do hope everyone had a good time and the Soldiers enjoyed themselves."

"It was a great turnout and the Soldiers seemed to really enjoy it," Taylor added. "I think it really went well."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

**Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Owens, HHC, 215th BSB, plays with her eye protection while she performs a skit at the 215th BSB Fashion Show, Jan. 20 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqubah, Iraq.**

Though Soldiers will never be aloud to express their true styles of fashion during the work day, Mathurin hoped the show would let the Soldiers know that they can still look good, even with a uniform on.

"Even if we are in ACUs, we can still be a little fashionable," she said. "You can make anything look good with a little imagination."

## Useful Iraqi Phrases

Good morning  
SabaH-el-khayr

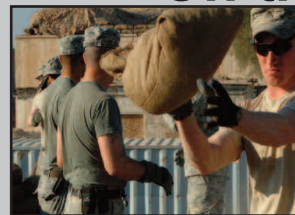
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## On the cover ...



Grey Wolf Soldiers pass sandbags to each other to create supplementary fighting positions next to the Grey Wolf Leadership Academy on Forward Operating Base Gabe.

Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

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## Chaplain's Corner

The majority, if not all, major television news networks run 24-hour live coverage of war's gruesome events. We see live talk shows everywhere on the issue of war. At the uncertainty of war, the economy holds hostage our pockets and shows a large droop on Wall Street due to global reservations. Families hug their loved ones once more as they depart for the battlefield. With this as daily fare on the predictable horizon, who wouldn't be uneasy, unsettled, and afraid?

There are, however, practical steps we can take to minimize the negative affects that spin around us today. In order for us to remain calm and confront our fears, we need to put some of these step into practice. By doing so, we have a better chance in maintain a healthy life and thus, healthy relationships with our love ones. We have everything we need to combat these stresses if we remain calm and think clearly. When we find ourselves in an unfamiliar and unfriendly place, we must take action and move ahead.

There are three steps that will help you and yours to keep a healthy life during this time away from your loved ones:

### First Step: Treasure your friends

Friends are gifts. Friends can give us a different perspective to continue holding on all the way. It is helpful for us to have sound-minded friends with whom to discuss our fears, and with whom to join our voices together in common prayer.

### Second Step: Keep yourself and your children busy!

Nothing helps us "un-focus" on negative and fearful thoughts more than keeping our hands busy with good things. Volunteer to serve supper at a shelter, visit the sick or shut in, or do whatever it takes to put your faith into some sort of positive action. Play sports; go to the movies, and travel. Do anything that will keep you and your children busy.

### Step Three: Take a Break

It would be better if we could "debrief" ourselves by dismissing scary and fearful thoughts before bedtime. Toward this effort, do not watch war news or discuss events near bedtime. Clearing our minds, doing relaxing activities, reading uplifting and Scriptural material, and praying will ease us into a more restful sleep. Sleep deprivation and bad sleep patterns only add to our feelings of helplessness and bring on more stress. Turn off the tube and bring out the dusty board games and card decks, and spend a leisurely evening pursuing old fashioned, good activities.

It is my prayer that by providing these simple steps you can find a better way to cope with separation and anxiety. Remember that your loved ones need you as much you need them. Keeping a healthy and balanced way of life will pay great dividends at the end.

Chaplain (Capt.) Jesus Perez  
3BSTB Chaplain

## Leadership Hosts Town Hall Meeting



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

The 5th Iraqi Army commander, the Balad Ruz mayor, the Diyala governor, the Provincial Director of Police and Col. David W. Sutherland, meet to discuss security and services with 150 local leaders and citizens.

## Soldier on the FOB

**"What do you do in your down time?"**



**Pfc. Aaron Eller**  
Co. A, 5-73

"Weapons maintenance and sleep. That's it."

**Pfc. Frank Hogsett**  
HHC, 3BSTB

"I read, clean my weapon and hit the gym. I also try to catch a movie every once in-a-while."



**Spc. Patrick Miller**  
HHC, 3BSTB

"I usually clean my M4 and Sleep. I also go to the MWR to call my wife."



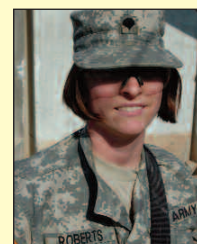
**Sgt. Leonard Price**  
Co. E, 215th BSB

"Sometimes I go to the gym, get on the internet and make a few calls. I have also had a suit made at the GW Taylor shop."



**Spc. Jackie Roberts**  
HHC, 215th BSB

"Sit in my room and watch movies with my husband."



By Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs



# GREY WOLF



Capt. Michael Duran, platoon leader for the brigade commander's personal security detachment, passes out candy to children during a visit to Karnabat, Iraq, an area near Baqubah, Iraq.

*Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs*



Staff Sgt. Cody Cho...  
rity detachment, pro...  
during a visit to Kar...



soldiers from Delta...  
pare to remount the...



# F IN ACTION



*Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs*

ate, a member of the brigade commander's personal security detail provides medical care to an Iraqi child who had a minor injury, in a village near Baqubah, Iraq.



*Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs*

Above, while training members of the 5th Iraqi Army Division, Sgt. Gabriel Miramontes, Troop C, 5-73 CAV, instructs an IA soldier on the proper stance when firing a weapon.

Below, Spc. Jonathan Castillo of Co. D, 1-12 CAB, provides security while his team members conduct post blast analysis while on a foot patrol in the village of Kahlis, Iraq



*U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall*

Company, 1st Cavalry Division, 12th Infantry Regiment, provides security for their vehicles in the village of Kahlis, Iraq



*U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall*



# Caring: A Word Both Countries Understand

By Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Favreau  
3-8 Combined Arms Battalion

Iraqi citizens and coalition forces may speak different languages but they care for people all the same.

Dr. Riyadh Sabri, an Iraqi doctor, and Maj. Paul Fleenor, along with other medics from 3-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, set up a medical care operation, known as a Cooperative Medical Engagement, for the people of the Al Audey Village inside the Rawashid district of the Diyala province, Dec. 23.

The mission was for Iraqi Army Soldiers along with coalition forces to screen the villagers by checking their vital signs and asking for health problems for Sabri to take a look at.

Sabri, the primary care giver for the operation, was assisted with medications and supplies provided by Soldiers from 3-8 CAB.

It was because of the joint effort that they were able to screen and treat over 125 local villagers.

At first the local population came in slowly but after a few moments word had gotten out that the Iraq Army and coalition forces were here to help, said Staff Sgt. Ruben Garcia, Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 3-8 CAB. People started coming in more and more, and soon it was more than the medics had anticipated, he said.

"It was hard to keep count of everyone we treated," added Garcia. "So we just kept going until supplies went out."

To Garcia, it was a chance to show the Iraqi people that he and his fellow Soldiers care about the local's health and they could trust the Soldiers, he said.

The majority of the patients Sabri came across only had minor injuries or sickness, except for one – a small boy with an infected cut on his hand.

The boy, who had obtained the cut weeks ago, had not received any medical treatment for his wound.

The cut was so infected that the infection was running up to his wrist.

If the boy went untreated for as little as one more day, the chances of him losing his finger would have been greatly increased.

The medics worked quickly to help the young boy



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Favreau, 3-8 CAB

**Dr. Riyadh Sabri, an Iraqi doctor, carefully examines a local Iraqi boy from Al Audey Village inside the Rawashid district of the Diyala province, during a Cooperative Medical Engagement lead by the Iraqi Army and coalition forces, Dec. 23.**

and treat his wound.

If he keeps the wound clean and keeps taking his antibiotics, he will be fine, said Garcia.

Though Fleenor, head surgeon for 3-8 CAB, and his medics had their hands full with screening patients, they knew this operation was more about supporting the Iraqi doctor and giving the people in the village confidence in the ability of their local doctor to take care of them.

"It's good to start working with the local doctors," said Fleenor. "The people of Al Audey were very thankful."



**Maj. Paul Fleenor, head surgeon for 3-8 CAB, checks the vision of a small Iraqi boy during a CME in the Diyala province.**

**RUN WITH THE PACK!!  
STAY GREYWOLF!!**



**WOLF CREDO**

RESPECT THE ELDER'S  
TEACH THE YOUNG  
COOPERATE WITH THE PACK

PLAY WHEN YOU CAN  
HUNT WHEN YOU MUST  
REST IN BETWEEN

SHARE YOUR AFFECTIONS  
VOICE YOUR FEELINGS  
LEAVE YOUR MARK

## 'Grey Wolf' Retention Team

**3 BCT Senior Counselor  
3rd BSTB  
1st-12th CAV**

**215th BSB**

**3rd-8th CAV  
6th-9th CAV**

**2nd-82nd FA**

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Helmes  
Staff Sgt. Luis Carter  
Staff Sgt. Jason Folmar  
Staff Sgt. Alegray Hamer  
Staff Sgt. Annamarie Conklin  
Staff Sgt. Margaret Smothers  
Staff Sgt. Don Jewell  
Staff Sgt. Richard Erickson  
Staff Sgt. Keston Dyer  
Staff Sgt. Daniel Beltran



# Fallen Hero Honored with Internet Cafe

By Pfc. Ben Fox  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Circled in front of a small building beside the movie theater on Forward Operating Base Warhorse was a small group of Soldiers, waiting to honor their fallen friend.

"Gauthreaux Internet Café" reads the top of the sign above the entrance to the small building. Inside, computers line two walls on either side, and above those computers are pictures that bring to life the memory of a fallen Soldier.

Sgt. Jay Gauthreaux, the fallen Soldier who is honored with the café, was killed in action Dec. 4 in Baqubah, Iraq.

Just inside the building on the wall to the right, is a letter from Gauthreaux's mother, Faye Crawford. In the letter, she shares encouraging thoughts about Gauthreaux and what he lived and died for.

"Some people would think that a mother would be bitter that her son was killed... but she was actually the opposite of that," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Lee, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"She was very proud that her son was here, doing what he loved to do," said the Zanesville, Ohio native.

Sgt. James Redick, native to Asuncion, Paraguay, said it is often hard for family members to cope with their children dying.

"I know it is hard for them to understand when we go, but it is our decision that

we are in the Army," said Redick.

Lee explained that the café was a way for others to know Gauthreaux the way his friends did.

"I think it was important that we leave some kind of memorial behind so that... people can know a little bit more about him and see what kind of person he was," said Lee.

"When we dedicate a building, it is something that stays on so that people can know about him," said Redick. "Especially how we felt about (him)."

The internet café was chosen as a memorial to Gauthreaux, known by his friends as "G," because of the job he had in the Army, said Lee.

"Since G belonged to the brigade (communications shop), we thought it would be appropriate to have something communications related," he said.

The building was an internet café before it was named and reopened, but it wasn't in very good shape, said Lee.

"When we first took this place over, it was in pretty bad shape," Lee said. "You just walked in and it felt dirty."

All of the old wood was stripped out, and they were issued new computers, he said.

With the games and books that people can use while they are wait-

ing on computer access, the room was meant to be a comfortable place, said Lee.

"We also want it to be a fun place; somewhere Soldiers can gather and be together," said Lee. "People can come and relax in an environment where they don't have to worry about work or their mission."

When the ceremony was over, the café was opened for Soldiers to relax and enjoy the memory of Sgt. Jay Gauthreaux.



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

**Capt. Mitchell Gronewold, commander of HHC, 3BCT, gives a speech in front of the "Gauthreaux Internet Café" at FOB Warhorse, Baqubah, Iraq, before officially opening it.**

## In Memory Of....

PFC Ryan Berg  
Co. B, 1-12 CAB  
3BCT, 1CD

CPL Stephen Raderstorf  
Co. A, 3-8 CAB  
3BCT, 1CD

MAJ Alan Johnson  
402nd Civil Affairs Batt.  
3BCT, 1CD

PVT Clarence Spencer  
Co. B, 1-12 CAB  
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Gregory Wright  
72nd Eng. Co., 1st Eng. Batt.  
3BCT, 1CD

PFC Nathan Fairlie  
Trp. B, 6-9 ARS  
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Eric Sieger  
Co. B, 1-12 CAB  
3BCT, 1CD





# MNC-I CSM visits Troops at Warhorse

By Spc. Ryan Stroud  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division were treated with a visit from the Multi National Corps – Iraq command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, Dec. 28.

Ciotola made a trip to Forward Operating Base Warhorse to speak with the enlisted Soldiers of the brigade, meet and interact with the leaders he hadn't met yet and take some time to recognize some of the brigade's hardest working individuals.

After his arrival to the FOB, Ciotola quickly headed to the Wood Dining Facility to share lunch with the leaders of Grey Wolf, an event Ciotola said was very important to him.

"I think the sergeant majors and first sergeants need to be reminded that are the linchpin to this operation here in Iraq," said Ciotola. "When it comes to whose going to push, pull or shove in an operation, it's a non-commissioned officer."

"The success or failure of an operation sometimes comes down to the NCO who, day-in and day-out, gives everything they can to their unit," he continued. "I think it's very impor-

tant that they understand that I think they are doing a good job."

Ciotola also said one of his purposes in the lunch was to open up the floor to the leaders to tell him what they thought needed to change or happen around their area of operation.

"My main purpose for coming was to subject myself to the scrutiny of the senior NCOs," Ciotola said. "If they need something that I can help them with, I will do my best to see that things get changed or that something productive will happen."

This event also provided Ciotola the chance to meet the new leadership he hadn't met back in garrison.

"I wanted to introduce myself to those I don't know so when I come back, I can place myself in one of their units to go on patrols, get to know their Soldiers and do what needs to be done," he said.

"It's one thing for someone to come in and give a speech to everyone but it's another to actually go out there and work and sweat with those Soldiers," Ciotola added.

After spending time at the Combat Logistics Patrol point, led by the Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Ciotola made his way back

to the DFAC to have a meal with some of Grey Wolf's finest lower enlisted Soldiers. Once there, Ciotola took the time to meet with the Soldiers and to let them know he was proud of their hard work and dedication to the brigade's efforts in combat.

"The foundation of this operation might be vested in the ability of the senior [NCOs] or in the officers, but the success or failure of this effort ultimately rests squarely on the shoulders of our young Soldiers and young sergeants," said Ciotola.

"They are the ones walking the streets," he continued. "They are the ones exposing themselves to the hostile nature of this environment that we have to conduct operations in. They have to deal with a lot of pressure that others might not understand."

"Any opportunity an [NCO] gets to recognize a Soldier...and to let them know that we believe in them needs to be taken," Ciotola added.

"A few hard-working Soldiers were invited to have dinner with Command Sgt. Maj. Ciotola," said Pfc. Latoriya Jones, an Aviation Operation Specialist for 3rd BCT. "I was invited because I am a private first class filling a sergeant first class' position."

"It was for Soldiers who have gone above and beyond expectations," she continued. "We were all coined for our efforts."

Jones said she was glad to have the chance to meet Ciotola and to share some of her experiences with him.

"He surprised me a lot because he was more about the Soldiers than anything else," she said. "He was interested in getting to know us personally and finding out what we did at our jobs."

"He really took the time to learn about who we were as people, not just Soldiers," she said. "It made me feel impor-

tant. He gave us the opportunity to talk directly to him."

"He wanted us to know that he was there for us," Jones added. "Any questions or concerns we had, we could ask him."

"These Soldiers lift me up, they are amazing," Ciotola said. "They do so many things that are profound."

Ciotola said he wanted the Soldiers to remember their efforts out here were not going unnoticed. The Soldiers are making a difference in Iraq everyday, he said.

"The Soldiers need to remember that even when American fought for our own independence, it took time," Ciotola said. "Things do not happen over night. They need to remember they are making a difference. They are making the lives of the Iraqi people so much better."

"Since Sadaam's [Hussein] reign has ended, 64,000 new businesses had opened," he continued. "The American Soldiers have already helped make a difference in the economy of the Iraqi people."

"I think the economy in Iraq is going to get greater through time," he said. "But none of these things could have happened without security provided from the Soldiers."

Ciotola took one last opportunity to speak with the leaders of Grey Wolf to share his appreciation of what they do everyday for their country. He challenged them to uphold standards and take the time to spend quality moments with their Soldiers.

He also hoped the Soldiers of Grey Wolf would be proud of themselves for their efforts and contributions to their units and to Iraq.

"When they leave Iraq, I hope they think to themselves, 'I did what I swore I would do, I did it to the best of my abilities and I did what others would not see fit,'" Ciotola said. "I did my best."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

**Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, command sergeant major of MNC-I, takes a moment to interact with "Grey Wolf" Soldiers at the Combat Logistical Patrol point.**



# Army wipes out insurgent stronghold in Diyala

## *Massive assault nets key leaders, Katushya rockets*

**Sgt. Armando Monroig**  
**5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

The U.S. Army concluded a massive, nine-day assault Jan. 13, centered on a series of small villages in the Diyala province that for the past 18 months had been used as a safe haven for insurgents.

During the operation, Soldiers from the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment Reconnaissance, 82nd Airborne Division, killed more than 90 insurgents and detained 54 suspected of involvement with terrorism activities in the area, which is located just south of Balad Ruz.

The unit, located at Forward Operating Base Caldwell, also reported capturing six unnamed leaders of an underground organization thought to have ties to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups hiding in the villages of Turki, Hamoud, and 30 Tamuz.

In outlying palm groves and canals, Soldiers found weapons caches containing more than 1,100 Katushya rockets, 1,500 rocket-propelled grenades, 500 mortars and a variety of bomb-making materials.

Sunni insurgents defended the area with small arms fire, anti-tank mines and improvised explosive devices.

"The effects will be felt just outside this area in places like Baghdad, Baqubah and further out to the west," said Capt. Stephen Dobbins, the commander of Troop B.

Leaders of the 5-73rd Cav. Regt. suspected that insurgents were using the area as a training ground for conducting terrorist activities elsewhere.

The villages are an hour's drive from Baghdad.

Last month, the unit raided the area after finding a large weapons cache there.

More than 100 insurgents and two U.S. Soldiers were killed in the fighting.

This last assault was bolstered by the Iraqi Army and U.S. Army units from forward operating bases in Muqadiyah and Baqubah.

Air Force B-1 bombers and F-16 fighter-bombers dropped bombs on nearby canals and tunnel systems to destroy insurgent defenses before Soldiers moved in to secure the area.

Soldiers battled ankle-deep mud as they cleared canals and villages.

The 5-73rd Cav. Regt., along with the Iraqi army, is now in the process of setting up a combat outpost in Turki from which to control the area.

"It will be a place where Coalition Forces and the Iraqi army can work jointly to develop intelligence, plan rehearsals, and execute missions out here," said Dobbins.

The outpost will also be used to facilitate infrastructure improvement projects and strengthen the area's education system.

"With the outpost, the Iraqi security forces can provide a safe and secure environment for those in the area who want a better opportunity for their families," said Lt. Col. Andrew Poppas, the commander of the 5-73rd Cav. Regt.

Poppas said that once the outpost is established, his unit will also begin to assist with the repatriation of village residents driven out by a mostly Sunni insurgency.

"The end state is to create a safe and secure region with a continuous Iraqi Security Forces presence," said Poppas.

"That way, we deny the enemy a safe haven in which they can conduct illegal acts with impunity," he said.

"You can't let an environment of extremism remain in a free and safe society."



*Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD*

**Iraqi soldiers stand guard over detainees who were rounded up as part of a massive operation to clear the Tawillah region of Iraq of insurgents. The 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment Reconnaissance (Airborne), along with members of 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division and 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, participated in the mission that began Jan. 4.**



*Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD*

**Soldiers from the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment Reconnaissance (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., prepare to enter a series of small mud huts in the Tawillah region of Iraq. The 5-73rd participated in an insurgent seek-and-capture-or-destroy mission that began Jan. 4 and lasted until Jan. 12.**



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## Photos From the FOB...



Sgt. Benny Alicea from Company A, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, prepares a fire for dinner at the Iraqi Police Emergency Response Force building in Baqubah, Iraq.

### **Got Photos?**

If you'd like to see your photo in *The Grey Wolf Howl*, e-mail Sgt. Serena Hayden at [serena.hayden@us.army.mil](mailto:serena.hayden@us.army.mil).

*U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall*